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*Histoire du Commerce du Monde.* Par OCTAVE NOËL. Temps Anciens — Moyen Age. Paris, Librairie Plon, 1891.— 4to, 332 pp.

The purpose of the author of this work is evidently to publish in two volumes a convenient outline of the history of the commerce of the world. In the present volume he reviews the development of trade in Egypt and the early monarchies of southwestern Asia, dwelling on means of communication, routes of trade, commodities, and the traffic which all those states carried on with India. Then, as in all later times, the world's commerce consisted largely in the exchange of the products of the remote East for those of the Western peoples. It was carried on along isothermal lines. The Phœnicians, the greatest navigators of antiquity, brought all the coasts of the Mediterranean within this circle of relations, and so laid the foundation of the commercial system of later antiquity. M. Noël dwells appreciatively on their skill in locating trading posts, and on the encouragement they gave to the free development of the natives among whom they settled. The Greeks, though not improving upon the methods of the Phœnicians, opened up the western Mediterranean more fully, while through the conquests of Alexander a closer connection with India was established. The great contributions of Rome to the progress of the world's commerce were the building of her incomparable roads and the maintenance of peace for more than two centuries. By taking advantage of the monsoons, the periodical recurrence of which was discovered about the middle of the first century, navigation to India was greatly facilitated. Following Mommsen, M. Noël calls attention to the systematic debasement of the coinage by the emperors of the third century, and attributes much importance to this, and the consequent hoarding of treasure, as a cause of the economic collapse which followed.

In the history of mediæval commerce the author dwells on the importance of the conquest of northern Africa and Spain by the Arabs. By this the East was brought into closer contact with the West. Recent investigations have shown that throughout the Middle Age the Italian cities carried on a flourishing trade not only with Spain but with northern Africa. Treaties were concluded for its regulation, and it formed a part of the revived commercial activity which was occasioned by the Crusades. The origin of consulships and of commercial codes are of course referred to in this connection. M. Noël necessarily describes at some length the enterprises and policy of Venice, Geneva, Pisa and Florence; of the French cities,

particularly Marseilles and Montpellier; of the Flemish cities and of the Hansa. He gives a specially interesting account of the fairs held in Champagne. So far as the East is concerned, he shows that after the close of the Crusades the island of Cyprus, then ruled by princes of the house of Lusignan, became the chief center of trade. At its capital, Famagusta, the great cities of Italy, France and Spain had their quarters, and to it came merchants from all parts of the Orient. The statement is made that in the fourteenth century it exceeded in importance either Constantinople or Venice. The comparative unimportance of English trade during the Middle Age is referred to, while attention is called to the early growth of trading companies (that of the Steel Yard, the Merchants of the Staple, the Lombards, *etc.*), and the appearance of a strongly exclusive national spirit in that country. The commercial history of the period closes with the occupation of the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean by the Turks. Communication with the Orient was thus cut off and the trade of Venice began to decline. It was necessary to seek another route to the East Indies, and already the Portuguese were reaching out toward the south with some such purpose in view. When their object was accomplished, and the Spanish opened the way to the New World, the modern era in the history of commerce began.

In the preparation of this work M. Noël has confined himself almost exclusively to secondary authorities. He has summarized existing knowledge. But he has done it in a pleasing way, and has produced a useful book. It contains several plates and elaborate maps.

HERBERT L. OSGOOD.

*England and Rome. A History of the Relations between the Papacy and the English State and Church from the Norman Conquest to the Revolution of 1688.* By T. DUNBAR INGRAM, LL.D. London and New York, Longmans, Green & Co., 1892.  
— 430 pp.

The question, how far is the Church of England old and how far is she new, has been discussed often and at length. Was the papal supremacy over England during the Middle Age anything more than an idea, an empty claim? Was it successfully asserted, or did the national will ever submit to it? Was the church of Henry VIII and Elizabeth essentially different from the church of Alfred, of Henry II, of Edward III? English lawyers, whether in preambles to